

support regardless of what Congress does. Instead of taking tax dollars out of the DC schools and placing those schools at risk of even greater disrepair, we must direct funds to fix the problems so all of the children in the District have an opportunity to learn in a safe, well-equipped public school. The \$45 million in question would be much better spent on school renovation, basic repairs, and improvements in academic performance.

General Becton—who was appointed by the Control Board created by Congress only last year—is implementing a program to improve academic quality, corporate and community relationships, infrastructure and management in the District's schools. The five schools where the reforms are in place have shown dramatic improvement in only 6 months. The public schools in our Nation's capital should be a shining example for the rest of the country, but they will never be if we do not give the programs already in place a chance to work.

Second, the Moran substitute eliminates the provisions of the committee bill that allow for the waiver of the Davis-Bacon Act. The Republicans are once again using the unions as a straw man to gain support for their position. They are trying to say that the Democrats are bowing to the pressure of the union bosses. Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't even know what a union boss is. The union members I know are hardworking men and women working for a boss. I oppose this provision because it just doesn't make good economic sense.

Research has shown that construction costs in States with prevailing wage laws are lower than in States without such laws. In addition, Davis-Bacon ensures that we have a skilled workforce that produces a quality product that will last for many years. This year, the District's schools were 3 weeks late opening because of the crumbling schools. Why would we want the District schools to go through this ordeal again a few years down the road because their schools were rebuilt with shoddy construction?

Third, the Moran substitute eliminates the provision that sets limits on punitive damages in medical malpractice suits in the District. When people go to the doctor, they place their trust in that doctor. They expect and deserve to receive competent, ethical, professional treatment—and most receive it. Clearly, we have the finest medical professionals in the world. However, when citizens are maimed or killed due to medical malpractice, they or their survivors deserve a remedy.

The District ranks 45th nationwide in doctor discipline records—one of the worst in the country. Without an effective disciplinary board, punitive damages are the only means to punish physicians for egregious wrongs. By capping punitive damages, we dramatically reduce the ability of the District's civil justice system to deter wrongdoing by negligent doctors. The citizens of the District deserve better.

Mr. Chairman, today I stand with the members of the Black Caucus in opposition to this bill. We cannot continue to ignore the needs of the District. Now is not the time for this ill-conceived, irresponsible plan to advance the Republican legislative agenda to a simple appropriations bill. I urge my colleagues to support the Moran substitute and stop this social experimentation.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP LARRY D. TROTTER

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on October 26, 1997, the Sweet Holy Spirit Full Gospel Baptist Church will come together to honor a great man. Their senior pastor, Bishop Larry D. Trotter, will celebrate 16 years of leadership within this august body and almost a lifetime of service to the community as well.

As a child, Bishop Trotter had an extraordinary desire to serve God. He attended Sunday school regularly and dedicated his life to Christ at the young age of 12. His unwavering dedication continued throughout high school and into adulthood.

It was not until 1981 that Bishop Trotter was called to minister at Sweet Holy Spirit Full Gospel Baptist Church. Once there he led the body from a membership of only 20 active parishioners to one with over 3,000 parishioners.

Bishop Trotter's work extends far beyond the church. His ministry has taken him around the world to countries such as Uganda, Kenya, Belgium, and Israel. Bishop Trotter developed a C.A.R.E.—Counseling, Activity Resource and Education—Center and organized several antidrug and anticrime marches throughout the city. Bishop Trotter has maintained these and other commitments while having time to reach out to thousands through his weekly radio and television broadcasts.

I am pleased to be here today in honor of Bishop Larry D. Trotter. I with the bishop and the Sweet Holy Spirit Full Gospel Baptist Church many continued years of growth and success.

TRIBUTE TO VA-HACU HEALTH CARE INTERN PARTNERSHIP

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Veterans Administration and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities [HACU] for undertaking a new partnership aimed at increasing Hispanic participation in health care professions. The program is being launched this morning at the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital in San Antonio. VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Kenneth Kizer and HACU President Dr. Antonio Flores will be present at the kick-off ceremony.

The program's goal is to place Hispanic interns in VA facilities across the country, providing them hands-on experience in a variety of VA health care settings. Students accepted into the summer internship program will work at medical centers, outpatient clinics, nursing homes and community-based clinics, thus providing a broad spectrum of experience opportunities.

The interns will complement over 100,000 health care professionals who are trained at VA facilities across the country. This experience is designed to educate interns who are pursuing careers in health care services, rang-

ing from physical therapy to health care administration. I commend the VA for its commitment to develop a workforce which reflects the communities served by the VA health care system.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEVIN MCCARTHY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend CAROLYN MCCARTHY, and her son Kevin who will be getting married very soon.

Each of us are familiar with the circumstances that inspired CAROLYN to seek election to this House. Since the day she arrived, her commitment to making our society safe and to improving the lives of those she represents has been an inspiration to us all.

I know that CAROLYN is immensely proud of her son, who has demonstrated remarkable strength in overcoming odds most of us would find insurmountable.

Kevin McCarthy is truly a "profile in courage," and I am proud today to join those from our class in wishing he and his fiancée Leslie Nolan all the love and happiness in the world on their wedding day.

One phrase that is too often thrown around these days is "family values." If anyone really wants to know the meaning of that phrase, they need to look no further than CAROLYN and Kevin McCarthy.

It is a privilege to serve in this body with CAROLYN, and to honor her son Kevin for the life he has led—and wish him all the best in his new life with Leslie:

BACKGROUND ON THE WEDDING OF KEVIN MCCARTHY AND LESLIE NOLAN

Kevin McCarthy and Leslie Nolan met last fall during his mother's successful 1996 Congressional campaign. Previous to her employment with NASA, Leslie had worked for 10 years on Capitol Hill. With the political season heating up, she got the itch to get back into the game and contacted a friend at EMILY's List, a campaign resource group for female candidates, where she was hooked up with the McCarthy campaign. She arranged to take 6 weeks of vacation and came to Long Island to volunteer for the campaign. She became the candidate's travel assistant.

Leslie returned home in November to her job as a Senior Policy Analyst at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The couple began a long distance relationship via the telephone, train and New York shuttles. They became engaged on April 26, 1997 at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. Kevin got down on one knee and proposed with a diamond engagement ring and a card in front of Longwood's beautiful waterfall. Leslie received a dozen roses each day the week before the engagement!

Their wedding will be celebrated by Deacon John Reinhart at the Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Mineola. 225 guests are expected. The couple will celebrate their nuptials with a wedding ball at the historic Ohoka Castle in Huntington. They will honeymoon in the Caribbean and are planning to make their home on Long Island.

Kevin McCarthy is the only child of Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy and the late Dennis McCarthy. Kevin is a Mutual Funds Clerk with Prudential Securities in New